

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Today, the entire Senate is on record. This amendment affirms the Senate's concerns over the free dissemination of radical and violent ideology and calls on the administration to add al-Manar to the Specially Designated Global Terrorist list.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, are there any others? I believe we have now covered all of the amendments we have agreed to accept. I think it is time to go to third reading, and I ask for the yeas and nays on final passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on the engrossment of the amendments and third reading of the bill.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators were necessarily absent: The Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE); and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 264 Leg.]

YEAS—93

Akaka	Dole	Lugar
Alexander	Domenici	Martinez
Allard	Dorgan	McConnell
Allen	Durbin	Mikulski
Bennett	Ensign	Murkowski
Biden	Enzi	Murray
Bingaman	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Bond	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Boxer	Frist	Obama
Brownback	Graham	Pryor
Bunning	Grassley	Reed
Burns	Gregg	Reid
Burr	Hagel	Roberts
Byrd	Harkin	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Hatch	Salazar
Carper	Hutchison	Santorum
Chafee	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Chambliss	Isakson	Sessions
Clinton	Jeffords	Shelby
Coburn	Johnson	Smith
Cochran	Kennedy	Snowe
Coleman	Kerry	Specter
Collins	Kohl	Stabenow
Conrad	Kyl	Stevens
Cornyn	Landrieu	Talent
Craig	Lautenberg	Thomas
Crapo	Leahy	Thune
Dayton	Levin	Vitter
DeMint	Lieberman	Voinovich
DeWine	Lincoln	Warner
Dodd	Lott	Wyden

NAYS—1

Bayh

NOT VOTING—6

Baucus	Inouye	Schumer
Corzine	McCain	Sununu

The bill (H.R. 3058), as amended, was passed.

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. MURRAY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate insist upon its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wanted to take a minute, as we finish this bill, to again thank my colleague from Missouri for his tremendous work on this bill. I know he has been under personal duress today and had a late night last night, but his team won despite what it appears to be. I think he has done a tremendous job and I wish to thank him.

I also wish to thank all of the majority staff, John Kamarek Paul Doerrer, Cheh Kim, Lula Edwards, Josh Manley, and Matt McCadle for their help in working with us for many months along the way, and also our minority staff, Peter Rogoff, Kate Hallahan, Diana Hamilton, Bill Simpson, Meaghan McCarthy, as well as my personal staff, especially Casey Sixkiller. I also want to thank all of the floor staff who have been diligent in working with us as we have moved this bill through and again thanks to my colleague from Missouri for his tremendous work on this bill.

Mr. BOND. I continue to be grateful for the cooperation of the Senator from Washington and her staff. I was going to go down the list of the staff members on both sides. I will incorporate by reference and say once again our staff worked very well together. This is the first time anybody had dealt with a TTHUD bill. It has many interesting moving parts, and some of them move in different directions at the same time. We could not have done it without the tremendous assistance of all of the staff, plus the floor staff.

I want to say a special thanks to Lula Davis, Dave Schiappa, and all the people in front here for their unfailing willingness to sit and help us through all of these things. This was more exciting than I wanted it to be, and their help enabled us to get through.

We would also like to put in a special thanks to Mike Solon in the Whip's office for helping us work on a number of things and both the Appropriations Committee leaders, Chairman COCHRAN and Senator BYRD. Also, the majority leader and minority leader were a great help.

So we are most grateful, and we are delighted to be out of the way now, and we will go to conference. We look forward

ward to coming back with perhaps an even better process and a good product.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent to speak for roughly 15 minutes instead of the 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, because I am chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and we have jurisdiction over taxes, I want to respond to some of the comments that have been made over the last 2 or 3 days, both on the floor as well as in news conferences, by the Senate Democratic leadership on the reconciliation tax relief bill that will be before Congress sometime between now and Thanksgiving. Quite frankly, it is necessary to pass because if we do not, then taxes are automatically going to go up without a vote of Congress. It is not necessarily the biggest tax increase that Congress has ever voted but a very sizable tax increase.

Obviously, if we are going to increase taxes, it ought to be done by a vote of the Congress and not done automatically. So we have to take action before we adjourn this fall, and that is what the reconciliation tax relief bill is all about.

It is quite obvious from these news conferences that the Democrats have been having, in statements on the floor, that they do not seem to understand that this is going to happen, and if it does happen, it is going to hurt middle income taxpayers as well as lower income taxpayers.

In press reports for several weeks now, the distinguished Democratic leader suggested that we cease all efforts to address expiring tax relief provisions. The senior Senator from Nevada stated as follows: I think we need to revisit this budget and reconciliation. Is it really the time to have \$70 billion more in tax cuts?

Well, we are not going to have \$70 billion more in tax cuts if we pass this reconciliation tax relief package. We are going to continue the tax policy we have had for the last several years, and if we do not pass it, we are going to have a \$70 billion tax increase, and that is what inaction is going to bring about. I see the Senator suggesting that that happen. I am going to say why that is bad not only for taxpayers, but that is bad for the economy of our country.

Then we also had the assistant Democratic leader, the senior Senator

from Illinois, likewise attack the notion of tax relief. This very afternoon, the ranking Democratic member of the Budget Committee, the senior Senator from North Dakota, attacked the idea of further tax relief.

Those words again. They want people to believe that we are going to cut taxes further, but if we do not take action, taxes are going up, not down. If we pass a bill, they are going to stay where they have been for the last several years.

Clearly, this line of attack is being coordinated by the leadership team on the other side of the aisle. As is usual with the question of tax relief, the East Coast media tend to be echoing the line of attack from the leadership of the opposition.

Yesterday, October 19, the Democratic leadership held a press conference to criticize further tax relief efforts. The purpose of the press conference was opposition to Republicans' attempt to spend billions on tax breaks for special interests while cutting health care, student loans, and other crucial assistance through their—meaning Republicans—immoral budget.

Now, understand, morality is brought into this. That kind of incendiary language is what makes folks outside of the Washington Beltway angry. Not only is it patently false, it is also over the top. Anybody with an ounce of common sense knows it.

Immoral? Give me a break. What is immoral is wasting taxpayer money to gin up this kind of partisan "attack dog" language because it diverts legislative resources from what this Congress needs to be doing and that is solving problems.

I have heard from my friend and ranking member, Senator BAUCUS, that the Democratic leadership may now be supporting an extension of some of these provisions that they seem to be attacking at the same time. Be that as it may, we have to look at a lot of other things besides the largely business tax relief that is included in what we call extenders, extending from one year to the next or the next several years things that automatically expire, that if we do not extend them, taxes go up rather than staying level.

I want to put all this debate in context, because until now, what I have set in motion here is what is coming from the other side so you have a context for the points I wish to make.

First off, let's take a look at the Democratic leadership's point on the budget. Why is the budget important, some people ought to ask and legitimately ask. The budget—we call it the budget resolution—is a blueprint or kind of an outline that sets the overall level of spending and the revenue of the Federal Government. The budget, then, sets the ground rules for all the other spending and revenue legislation that will be considered by the Senate over the course of a year. So we pass the budget resolution in the spring, and all

the appropriations bills and the tax bills and everything else have to fit into that budget resolution.

Under the Senate rules, then, a bill that exceeds the levels set in the budget resolution could possibly be, and often is, subject to a 60-vote point of order; in other words, taking 60 votes to go beyond the budget, which is very difficult to get in this body. That is why you get a lot more fiscal discipline with a budget resolution. By imposing this supermajority requirement, the budget encourages the Senate to stay within the overall limits we set in our resolution while at the same time providing opportunities to exceed those limits if there are extenuating circumstances.

Chairman JUDD GREGG of the Budget Committee has used this tool of a point of order to keep spending under control. On this appropriation bill that was just completed after 2 or 3 days' work, that has proved effective, in three or four instances, to keep a lot of additional spending from happening—spending that, if we just had a simple majority without a budget resolution, could possibly not have been prevented.

By the way, despite all the posturing about fiscal responsibility coming from the Democratic side, I am still waiting for spending cuts, ideas on how we can save money on expenditures, coming from the other side. I have asked my colleagues on the other side of the aisle over the years to put their money where their mouth is. The Finance Committee that I chair produced \$180 billion in revenue raisers and got \$135 billion of that enacted. So we have produced on the revenue side. I am going to be showing with that chart here in just a little bit where we have also had other tremendous advantages from the tax policy of the last 4 years. But where are the critics, then, who seem to always want to raise revenue? Where are they when there is an opportunity to come up with ideas to save money on the spending side of the ledger?

I have always said it would be one thing to raise taxes, and I might be willing to consider doing that if I could ever come to the conclusion that you could raise taxes high enough to satisfy the appetite of a lot of big spenders in this Congress to spend money. If I would ever see a limit, I might be willing to settle for something if that was the end of it. But you never have the end, it seems. You never have enough revenue for the people who want to spend money.

Budget reconciliation, as has been the point of the news conference I already referred to, is often the subject of much controversy. So I would like to take a moment and focus on the reconciliation bill my committee is going to have to consider between now and adjournment in order to retain the present level of taxation. If we do not take action, which is what the Democrats are asking us not to do, taxes are going to go up.

As chairman of this tax writing committee that we call the Finance Com-

mittee in the Congress, I have a responsibility for all of the legislation that affects Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, the income tax code. The budget resolution we passed earlier this year provides reconciliation instructions for my committee to achieve \$150 billion in program savings. And by the way, we finally have a package put together that will do this, a package that I believe we will be able to vote out of committee next Tuesday. We have set our committee there so we will meet our savings on the expenditure side—we will meet those goals.

Of course, then the other part of my work is the \$70 billion of tax relief that is not a tax reduction but maintaining the existing level of taxation.

While these instructions from the Budget Committee—or you might say now it is policy, by the full Senate—do not actually require the Finance Committee to enact any specific policy, there are numbers and policies that are assumed within the numbers that the Senate has given me. Today, I will focus on the tax relief portion of the budget. After all, that is where the attacks have come from the Democratic leadership through their news conferences and statements here on the floor of the Senate.

Start with a basic number. When the Senate Budget Committee considered the resolution over a half year ago this year, Republicans laid out a plan to reconcile tax relief—in other words, to keep the taxes from automatically going up, not to cut taxes from where they are today. This plan was the product of discussion with members of the Republican caucus. Although the process was driven by Republican members, the substance of the proposal is bipartisan. Our objective, then as now, is to preserve current law levels of tax relief. The plan centers on a seamless extension of tax relief provisions that began in President Bush's first term, in 2001. It is critical that these provisions be rationalized with a common sunset date. Assuring taxpayers of the continuity of promised tax relief should be our highest priority. Predictability of tax policy, in other words, is essential to a vibrant, growing economy. Taxpayers should not face the reversal of the level of tax relief we have delivered. It is going to have terrible economic consequences if we do.

Let me repeat. Reconciliation is about preventing automatic tax increases, it is not about new tax relief proposals.

Some on the other side have been critical of the \$70 billion in reconciled tax relief from the day we passed the budget resolution. Where, let me ask, is the Democrat leadership's plan for tax relief? Or do they propose that we start taxing middle-income Americans by letting these things sunset and have an automatic increase in taxes? Has anyone seen a Democratic proposal for maintaining existing tax policy so we do not have an automatic tax increase? All we seem to hear, based upon these

news conferences and statements, happens to be criticism. How many times have we heard about the alternative minimum tax or what we call AMT? We heard about it plenty of times. We even heard incorrect assertions that this budget does not address alternative minimum tax problems.

Guess what. The reconciliation bill has room for extending the current patch, or "hold harmless" for millions of families who, if we do nothing, are going to face the alternative minimum tax. These are not the wealthy people that the alternative minimum tax was intended to hit. These are going to be 5 million more middle-income tax-paying people who presently are not hit by it. So where is the Democratic leadership plan for AMT relief? When they say we ought to rethink this budget resolution, are they saying we are going to tax these 5 million people who have not been hit by this by doing nothing between now and the end of the year? Where is the response for the current period? I have been looking for it. I can't find it, from the other side. All we are hearing is another excuse to make the American taxpayers second-class citizens. In this case, spending for the hurricane might be the excuse. There always seems to be a reason to deny tax relief or automatically increase taxes on middle-income Americans.

Likewise, there always seems to be an excuse for dodging spending restraint. Let taxes go up automatically, don't do anything to reduce spending. In short, it seems that the Democratic leadership cares more about spending taxpayers' money than keeping the tax burden low. The American taxpayer has done his or her part. Receipts are way ahead of last year—way ahead of where even we predicted they would be. According to Treasury data, receipts last year were \$1.880 billion. This year, receipts are \$2.154 billion. So this is an increase of \$274 billion coming in this year, more than last year without increasing taxes, with no rates of tax increase.

Even taking into consideration that level of taxation, in a news conference the Democratic leadership said we ought to rethink our tax policy. According to the Congressional Budget Office—and I might refer to that occasionally as CBO—the CBO receipts are up for this fiscal year alone by \$97 billion over what CBO guessed they would be earlier this year—\$97 billion more coming in than the official estimators said just a few months ago would be coming in.

Whichever figure you might use, either that \$274 billion more coming in in 2005 than in 2004 or the \$97 billion more that is coming in, more than the CBO estimated, this is very definitely an impressive improvement on the revenue side of the budget. That amount exceeds the amount of reconciled tax relief over 5 years by \$70 billion that we provided in this budget resolution that will be the subject of legislation on this floor in the next 4 weeks.

As a percentage of the economy, which is known as the gross domestic product, Federal receipts are up to about 17.5 percent of GDP. The historical average is right about 18 percent. When I say historical average, I mean over a period of time from the late 1950s until today averaging about 18 percent of taxes coming into the Federal Government as a share of the gross domestic product. So we are getting back to historical averages, but you wouldn't know that by listening to some of the alarmist claims for more revenue that you hear in speeches on the floor of this Senate.

Where is the extra money coming from? It is coming across-the-board. A good chunk of it is coming from non-withheld income taxes, and that would be from capital gains dividends, higher than expected small business income. No one should be surprised by these developments. They are consistent with economic and fiscal history. The bottom line is that when the economy grows, the Federal Treasury benefits as well.

That is shown very clearly on this chart. Over 40 years, up until now—and beyond that, guessing what the economy might do for another 10 years—we see the green line here, the gross domestic product, the measure of it on a yearly average. That is the green line. It is fairly constant, not so erratic.

The revenues coming in are the red lines. That tends to be much more dramatically different from year to year than what the GDP measurement is. You can see here, going back 40 years, when the GDP goes down, you have a very dramatic drop in taxes coming into the Federal Treasury.

When they go up, you have a much more dramatic increase in taxes coming into the Federal Treasury. You can see that several times—quite a drop here in the gross domestic product but a very dramatic drop in income coming in.

More recently, we had the Clinton recession that we inherited, plus 9/11. So you find a dip in the gross domestic product here, but, boy, you see a very dramatic drop in the income coming in at this point.

We passed the tax bill of 2001, and we passed the tax bill of 2003. You know that Greenspan said the growth in the economy is very related to those tax reductions we had at that particular time. You can see that we have a rise since then in the gross domestic product. You have a rise in income. But this chart was made before we had some more recent figures.

This red line, the point right here, would be about right here, reflecting that \$274 billion more coming in in 2005 over 2004. You see a little rise in the gross domestic product, a very dramatic rise for the most recent figures at this point here instead of this point here—a more dramatic rise in the income coming into the Federal Treasury from our taxes because there was a little bit of an increase in the economy.

People are saying here we have to increase taxes, whether it is automatically or whether you vote them. You don't have to do that. You can see we are projecting a very good income coming into the Federal Treasury just when there is a slight increase in economic growth of our country as reflected in what we call the gross domestic product.

Some people here have it backwards. They think Federal revenue drives the economy. It is almost as though they believe raising taxes will lead to more growth. Growing economic activity, as shown by this chart, is fueling the good news on the receipt side of the Federal budget. In this environment, it is a wonderment why the Democratic leadership would want to send such a negative message to the financial markets.

Why does the Democratic leadership want to raise capital gains tax by 33 percent and double the tax on dividends? In these uncertain times, why would the Democratic leadership want to drive a stake in the heart of this growing economy, not only a growing economy but a more vastly growing amount of money coming into the Federal Treasury?

A cynical person might feel that the Democratic leadership is only looking at political gain by driving down our economy. I can't believe my friends in the Democratic leadership would want to cause economic pain for short-term political gain. But with all these speeches that are going on around here and all these news conferences about rethinking the budget, you have to wonder, don't you?

To sum up on my first point, the taxpayer is not the problem. The taxpayer is sending plenty of money to Washington, DC by \$274 billion more in 2005 over 2004 with these lower levels of taxation we have. The revenue side of the budget is coming in fine, way beyond expectation.

I will turn to the specific plan we are going to present to the Senate when we have this reconciled tax package out here.

Again, this is a tax relief plan expressed in these news conferences that the Democratic leadership wants to kill. The reconciliation instruction gives us the resources to maintain current law tax relief. Put another way, the reconciliation instructions to my committee are our best means to protect against tax hikes on millions of American taxpayers.

Let us take a look at the tax increases the Democratic leadership would put on the American people by inaction by this Congress—an automatic tax increase. That is the Christmas present we would be giving the taxpayers, if we adjourn by Thanksgiving. What a Christmas present.

First and foremost, the tax relief plan continues to hold harmless for the alternative minimum tax. This piece of the plan—the largest, I might add—is worth \$30 billion to 14 million American families.

Does the Democratic leadership want to push millions of middle-income families into the alternative minimum tax? If the answer is no, then they ought to support our reconciliation bill.

Second, the plan extends the progrowth piece of the 2003 tax relief bill, specifically lower capital gains and dividend rates.

As the Finance Committee hearing showed earlier this year, we got testimony about how these incentives have helped the stock market recover. A lot of folks on Wall Street tell us they have assumed continuation of these progrowth tax relief measures in the pricing of stocks. Does the Democrat leadership want to play games with stock prices? If the answer is no, then they ought to support our reconciliation bill.

A third point: Other widely applicable tax relief benefits are addressed in our bill. I am talking about these middle-income tax benefits we already have on the books that would expire. The deductibility of college tuition, the small savers tax credit, the small business expensing—all of these provisions are bipartisan. Millions of taxpayers are already relying on them. Does the Democratic leadership want to take away the deductible for college tuition from families who send their kids to college? Does the Democratic leadership want to eliminate the small savers credit? Does the Democratic leadership want to take away expensing of equipment from our small business folks and farmers? If the answer is no, then they should support our reconciliation bill.

The fourth example is our plan is going to address expiring business and individual provisions that we call extenders because we extend them from year to year or maybe 2 or 3 years at a time. But they eventually run out. These provisions include the research and development tax credit, the State sales tax deductibility from the Federal income tax, and the deduction of teachers' out-of-pocket expenses.

As I noted, the Democratic leader did not come out and say he would support taking a look at some of these regular extenders, but they are a small part of the picture. I note that the ranking member of the Budget Committee hasn't come that direction yet.

The Democratic leadership is not singing with one voice on this subset of expiring provisions. But if we do what the Democrats said they wanted to do in their news conference, these could possibly expire.

Does the Democratic leadership then want to eliminate the research and development tax credit? Does the Democratic leadership want to eliminate the sales tax deduction from the Federal income tax? Does the Democratic leadership want to eliminate the deduction for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses? If the answer is no, then they ought to help us get this budget tax reconciliation bill passed. These are all about growth of the economy.

In the Midwest, farmers—and I am one of them—have a saying: Don't eat your seed corn. Keep planting seed corn. That makes the economy strong. The tax relief seeds we planted a few years ago are yielding, as you can see here, a good harvest of revenue to the Federal Treasury.

What it comes down to is this: We need to take care of legislative business. We need to continue the tax relief promised to the American people and not let it expire, not let there be an automatic tax increase. If there is going to be an automatic tax increase, it ought to be voted by Congress. We ought to have guts enough to increase the taxes.

But we are better off with a plan that stops this automatic tax increase. The revenue side of the budget is performing fine, as you can see here. The American taxpayer is doing his or her share by the tune of \$274 billion more coming in this year, 2005, over 2004. Now is not the time to shortchange the American taxpayers by raising their tax burden, particularly on middle-income taxpayers.

I ask my friends in the Democratic leadership to please refrain from raising taxes on millions of middle-income Americans. It is simple: Maintain existing levels of taxation. You do that by supporting the reconciliation bill that will be coming before this Congress shortly.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX ADVANCE TO THE WORLD SERIES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about a matter of great importance to the people of the State of Illinois. For the first time since 1959, the era of the "Go-Go Sox," the Chicago White Sox are headed to the World Series. The White Sox will face the Houston Astros, who last night beat the St. Louis Cardinals and clinched the National League pennant. We are disappointed; an I-55 World Series would have been great. But the Cards are a great team, Tony La Russa is a great manager, and they will be back.

I didn't grow up in Chicago, I grew up in east St. Louis, but one of the first things I learned about Chicago is that the people of that city are absolutely passionate about baseball. I have also learned that Chicagoans don't ask you which team you love. They want to know which team you hate—except this time. Today, we are all White Sox fans. As long-time Sox fans are painfully aware, the White Sox have not won a World Series since 1917. Their three-game sweep in the playoffs against the defending World Series champion Boston Red Sox was the first step in exorcising the ghost of Shoeless Joe Jackson and that controversial 1919 White Sox team that was branded the "Black Sox."

It was clutch hitting and pitching that helped this year's White Sox beat the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, four games to one, to advance to the

World Series. In four consecutive playoff games this year, White Sox pitchers threw complete games, a record not matched since the 1956 Yankees.

Speaking of outstanding pitchers, I congratulate my colleague, Senator BARACK OBAMA. He threw out the opening pitch in game 2 of the playoffs. Before that pitch, the White Sox were trailing the Angels one game to nothing. But after Senator OBAMA's blazing pitch, the Sox came back to win four games in a row and clinch the American League pennant. Rumor has it that if the going gets rough in the World Series, the Sox are going to turn to BARACK OBAMA if they need a strong southpaw.

White Sox players will be among the first to tell you: The upcoming World Series is not just a tribute to their outstanding performance. This historic event is a tribute to great White Sox players of the past who came so close only to fall short. They include Ozzie Guillen, who is now the White Sox manager, and, of course, Frank Thomas, their injured star—both White Sox stalwarts in the 1980s and 1990s.

Most of all, this historic World Series is a reward to the millions of White Sox fans who have stood by their team year after year, decade after decade, during seasons of 90-plus wins and 90-plus losses.

I applaud especially general manager Kenny Williams for helping to put this great team together; my personal friends, the owners of the White Sox, Jerry Reinsdorf and Eddie Einhorn, for their undying commitment to building a championship team on the South Side of Chicago. They orchestrated strategic moves to bring improved speed, defense, and pitching to the daily lineup in the form of players such as Scott Podsednik and Jose Contreras whose outstanding performance complemented veteran Sox such as American League playoff MVP Paul Konerko and All-Star Game starting pitcher Mark Buehrle.

When spring training opens next spring, Illinoisans will once again be divided between Cubs fans, White Sox fans, and Cardinal fans, too. But today, we are all pulling for the White Sox as they fight to bring to Chicago the city's first baseball World Series championship in 88 years. For Cardinal red and Cubby blue, the choice is black and white. Go Sox.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES EXTENSION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter dated October 20, 2005, from myself to Senator STEVENS be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: